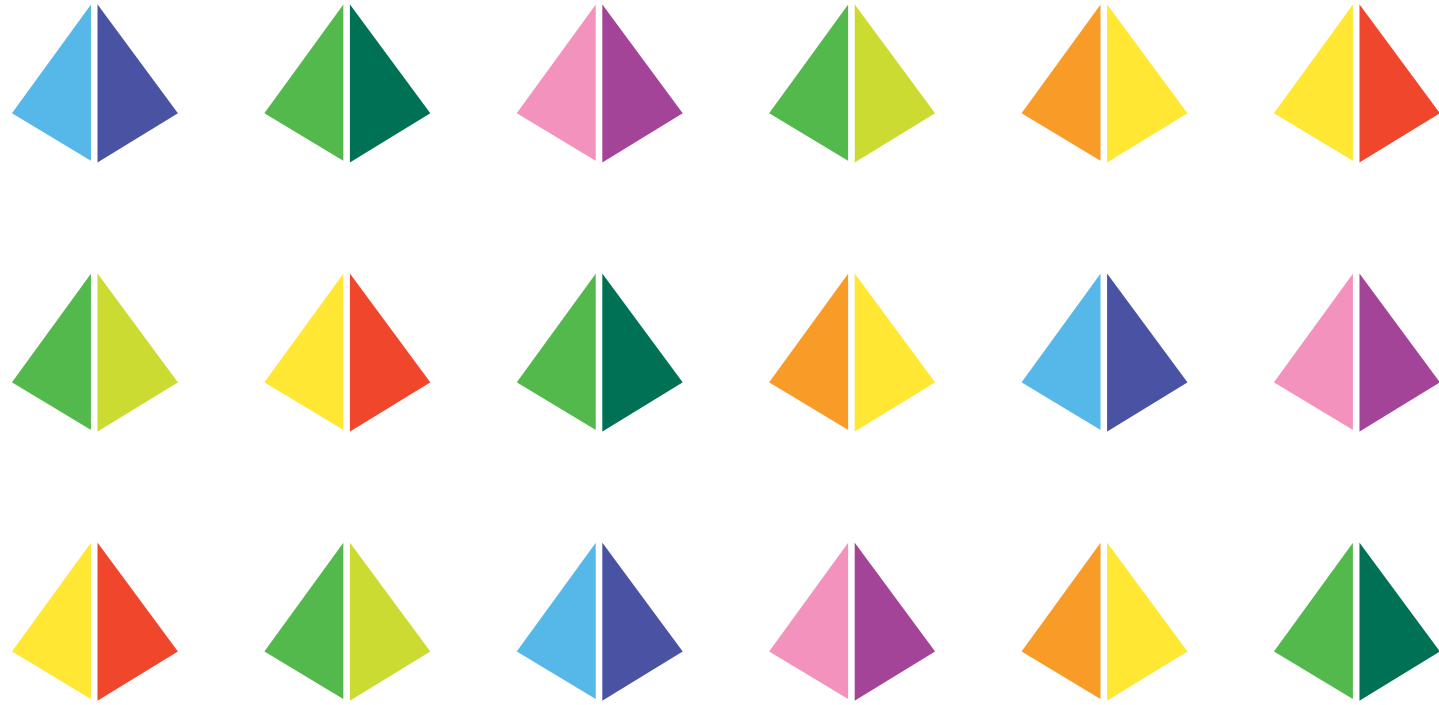


Tongali Project

Entrepreneurship development project in the Tokai region



About Tongali

Tongali¹ (Tokai Network for Global Leading Innovators) is an entrepreneurship development project conducted by five national universities² in the Tokai region, Japan.

Target

- Undergraduate students
 - Graduate students
 - Postdoctoral fellows
 - Faculty and staff
 - Alumni
- of universities in the Tokai region

The program provides a wide variety of services to foster successful entrepreneurs, such as providing mentoring opportunities, incubator facilities, financial supports, as well as classes and seminars offering valuable and practical information on entrepreneurship and startups.

The program also takes the initiative in organizing a regional-wide supporting system and community for startups in the Tokai region.

We believe enhancing entrepreneurship and increasing the number of startups will become a fundamental driving force for the vitalization of industry and increase job opportunities in this region.

1 "Tongali" is a Japanese expression meaning a sharp, creative, and unique person
2 The Consortium of University-Industry Collaboration for Five Universities in the Tokai Region: Nagoya University, Toyohashi University of Technology, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Gifu University, and Mie University

The Tongali Project provides:



Opportunities to meet designated mentors such as venture capitalists and seasoned startups who can support starting and growing businesses



Co-working spaces and incubator facilities which are managed by each university in the program



A wide variety of financial opportunities including gap funds and venture funds



Valuable and practical knowledge and know-how in areas such as marketing techniques and financial management for producing successful entrepreneurs and startups

Tongali
Tsunagali (network)
Hirogali (expansion)

Tongali Vision

The Tokai region has been the most active area in Japan for manufacturing industries and industry-academia collaborations. However, compared with other regions in Japan, there have been fewer university startups and fewer student entrepreneurs. For the purpose of changing the situation, the Tongali Project has been started as a driving force to produce innovative entrepreneurs.

In 2016, five national universities of the region, Nagoya University, Toyohashi University of Technology, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Gifu University, and Mie University, agreed to establish the support fund for university startups. Receiving financial support from the fund, the Tongali Project has started several activities to support future startups or entrepreneurs. Those activities include organizing educational opportunities, such as classes and seminars, pitch events, financial opportunities, as well as providing co-working spaces and incubator facilities.

In 2017, the Tongali Project was selected as one of five university consortiums to receive funds from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), under the name of “the Exploration and Development of Global Entrepreneurship for

the NEXT generation (EDGE-NEXT) program”.

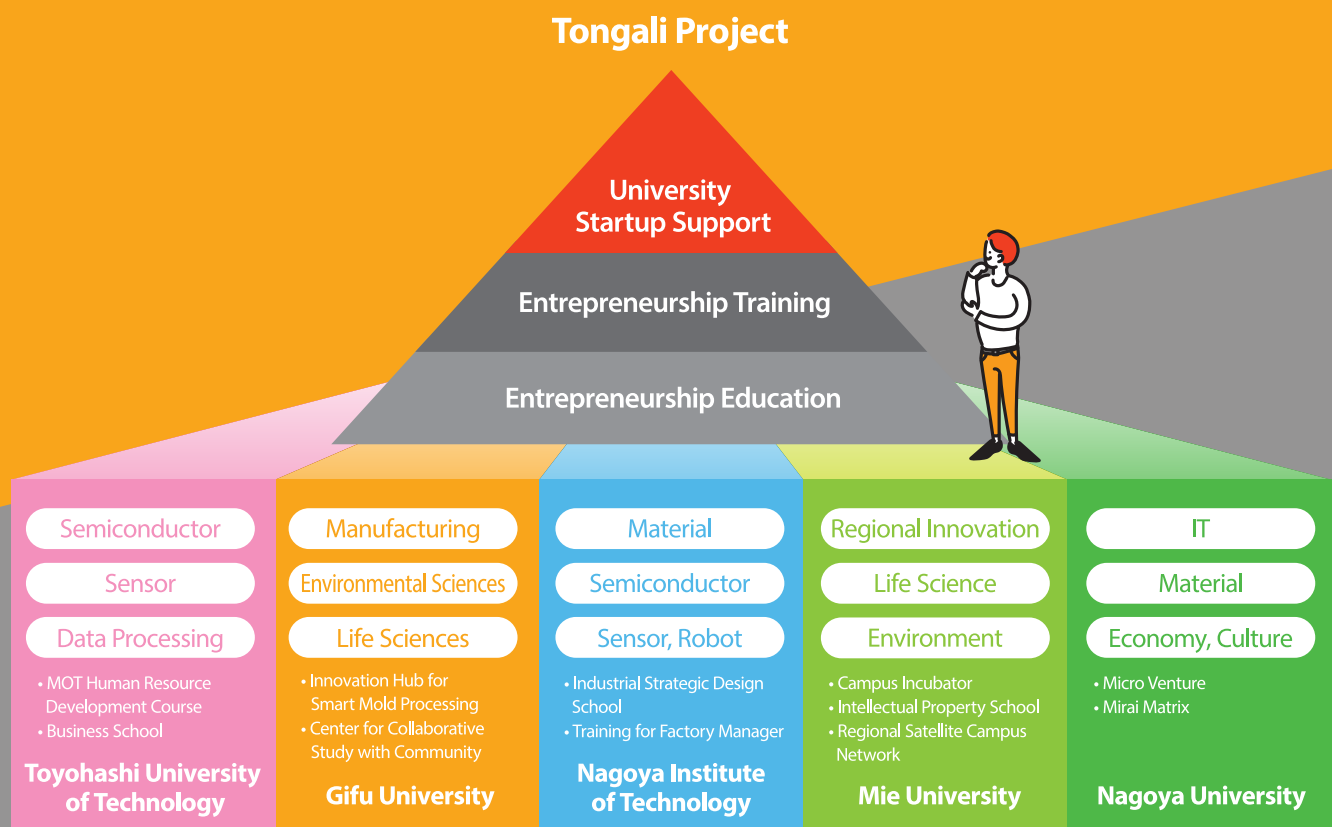
The project is operated collaboratively by the five universities, which is expected to produce synergistic effects. It provides a wide variety of opportunities for all students in the region to meet, learn together, and support each other in becoming successful entrepreneurs.

Four benefits, which the project provides to participants

- Mentors: advices and supports by designated mentors
- Facilities: co-working spaces and incubator facilities at each university
- Finance: a wide variety of funding opportunities
- Information: knowledge and know-how for entrepreneurship and running startups

Through its activities of the project, the project aims to realize the following long and medium term goals:

- To establish a so-called eco-system for innovative entrepreneurs and startups
- To produce several startups that reach the exit stage within 5 years
- To vitalize the regional economy, produce new industries and increase



Project Menu

The Tongali project provides seamless support for startups from idea creation to commercialization.

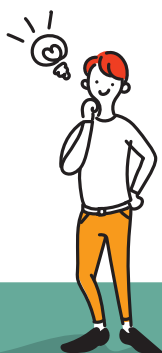
Pick up menu 1

Tongali Symposium

Participants exchange ideas about innovative practices for pursuing their dreams with active entrepreneurs.



STEP 1



STEP 2



Learn Entrepreneurial Knowledge and Skills

Foster Entrepreneurial Spirit

Foster the entrepreneurial mindset by sharing ideas with seasoned startup operators

- Lectures and seminars at each university
- Tongali symposium
- Tongali talks

Pick up menu 3

Business Plan Contest

Student teams give presentation to accelerators and venture capitalists. Several prizes are offered and awardees receive funding to implement their business plan.



- Practical training for entrepreneurship
- Learning various skills from idea creation to presentation

- Tongali school
- Idea pitch contest
- Overseas training in design thinking

Pick up menu 2

Tongali School

Learn essential know-how and skills for entrepreneurs step by step. Lecturers are experts in idea creation, organizational management, intellectual property, finance, etc.



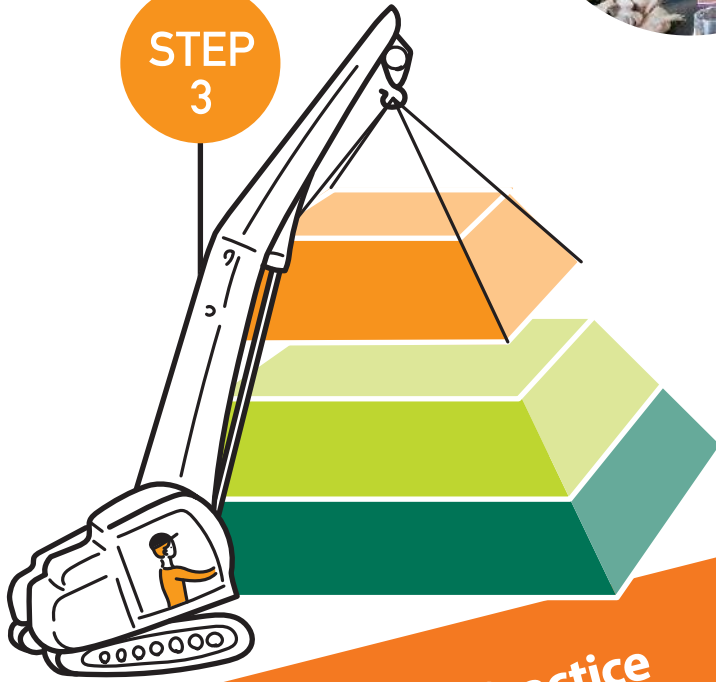
Pick up menu 4

Overseas Entrepreneurship Training

Participants develop business plans through country-specific workshops and interact with local accelerators and student entrepreneurs.



STEP
3



STEP
4



Entrepreneurial Practice

Implementing a PoC (Proof of Concept)
based on the know-how, skills and network

- Lean LaunchPad Nagoya
- Business plan contest
- Providing co-working spaces and incubator facilities at each university
- Gap fund

Open Innovation

- Expanding domestic and international networks for starting a business
- Implementation of open innovation by realizing a PoC and accelerating matching with companies

- Overseas entrepreneurship training
- Demo day
- Ventures talk
- Venture fund
- Awarding a university startup title

LET'S KEEP
GOING TOWARDS
MY DREAM!





For inquiry about the project

Tongali project secretariat

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